BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Smart Thermostats

Ecobee & Honeywell Home — choosing, installing safely, and saving money, all in plain English

A plain-English guide to your smart thermostat

Take your time — and we'll be safe about it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

Covers Ecobee & Honeywell Home thermostats · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your smart-thermostat manual. Read it in any order and at your own pace — there is no test, and you can't fall behind. It's written for the two most common smart thermostats in American homes — **Ecobee** and **Honeywell Home** — and because they work in much the same way, the ideas here fit both, and much of it fits other brands too. Every feature comes with what it actually does *for you*, and slow, careful directions anyone can follow. One promise up front: when it comes to wiring, we'll always put safety first, and I'll be honest about when a job is better left to a professional.

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PART 1

Getting to Know Smart Thermostats

What they are, what they do for you, how Ecobee and Honeywell compare, and the one question — the C-wire — that decides how easy your install will be. Start here.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. A thermostat is one of those small boxes on the wall we never think about — until it's time to replace it, and suddenly there's talk of wires and apps and Wi-Fi, and what should be simple feels daunting. I wrote this book to take all of that worry off your shoulders.

I'm Bill. Helping folks feel at home with their technology is what I do every day, and I'll walk you through this the way I'd do it standing in your hallway: slowly, in plain English, and — when it comes to the wiring — carefully and honestly. If I use a word you don't know, I'll stop and explain it right then.

Why a smart thermostat is worth the fuss

A **smart thermostat** is simply a thermostat that connects to your home Wi-Fi, so you can control your heat and air conditioning from your phone, set it to adjust itself through the day, and let it quietly trim your energy bills. For many homes it pays for itself over a few years in lower heating and cooling costs — and in the meantime, it's genuinely more comfortable and more convenient.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What it really does for you

Never get out of a warm bed to turn up the heat — do it from your phone. Come home to a house that's already comfortable, without heating it all day while you're out. Check from the doctor's office that you didn't leave the air running. Lower bills, and the quiet comfort of a home that warms and cools itself around your life. That's the promise, and it's a real one.

An honest word about wiring

I'll be straight with you throughout this book: installing a thermostat involves a few low-voltage wires, and while many folks can do it themselves safely, some situations truly call for a professional. I'll show you how to do it carefully, I'll tell you exactly when to stop and call an expert, and I'll never pretend a tricky job is simpler than it is. Your safety and your furnace come first — always.

And I'm only a phone call away

If you get stuck or uneasy at any point, you are never stuck alone. Call me at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll work it out together, or I'll help you find the right person for the part that needs one.

There's no such thing as a silly question. Now let's get acquainted.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What a Smart Thermostat Actually Does

Before we compare models or touch a wire, let's be clear about what this device is and the jobs it does. Understanding the idea makes every later step make sense.

The same job, done smarter

At heart, your thermostat does what it always has: it reads the temperature in your home and tells your furnace and air conditioner when to turn on and off to keep you comfortable. A smart thermostat adds three new abilities on top of that old, familiar job:

New ability	What it means for you
It connects to Wi-Fi	So you can see and change the temperature from your phone, anywhere — from bed, from the car, from Florida.
It can think ahead	It follows a schedule you set, and can learn your routine, warming or cooling the house just before you want it and easing off when you don't.
It can save energy	It gently avoids heating and cooling an empty house, and shows you where your energy goes — which is how it lowers your bills.

What it does NOT do

A smart thermostat doesn't replace your furnace or air conditioner — it's the *control* for them, the same as your old thermostat was. It won't make a struggling furnace heat better or a failing air conditioner cool more; it simply tells healthy equipment when to run, more cleverly. If your heating or cooling isn't working right to begin with, that's a job for an HVAC technician, not a new thermostat.

GOOD TO KNOW

"HVAC" — a word you'll see a lot

HVAC stands for Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning — it's just the catch-all term for your home's heating and cooling equipment: the furnace, the air conditioner, the heat pump, the ductwork. An 'HVAC pro' or 'HVAC technician' is the tradesperson who installs and services all that. I'll use the word throughout; now it holds no mystery.

A little glossary to keep handy

Thermostat talk comes with a few terms. Here they are in plain English — flip back any time one trips you up:

Term	Plain-English meaning
Setpoint	The temperature you've asked for (as opposed to the current room temperature).
C-wire (common wire)	The wire that gives a smart thermostat its steady power (Chapter 4).
Low-voltage	The thin 24-volt wiring most smart thermostats use. (Line-voltage is the thick, dangerous kind — Chapter 5.)
HVAC	Your heating and cooling equipment, and the trade that services it.
Heat pump	A system that both heats and cools by moving heat; common and supported.
Geofencing	Using your phone's location to know when you're home or away (Chapter 18).
Setback	Easing the temperature back (cooler in winter, warmer in summer) to save energy.
Hold	A manual temperature that overrides the schedule until you cancel it (Chapter 15).
Zone	An area of the home with its own thermostat; some homes have several.

A thermostat you can trust to be there

One quiet comfort of a smart thermostat is that it watches over your home even when you're not thinking about it. It can warn you if the house gets dangerously cold or hot, remind you to change the furnace filter, and let you check — from anywhere — that all is well. For someone living alone, or for a family keeping a caring eye on an older parent's house, that steady, in-the-background attention is worth as much as the lower bills. It's not just a fancier dial on the wall; it's a small, dependable helper that never sleeps.

CHAPTER 3

Ecobee vs. Honeywell Home — and Which to Pick

The two smart thermostats you'll meet most often in American homes are made by **Ecobee** and by **Honeywell Home** (Honeywell's smart-home line, now run by a company called Resideo). Both are excellent and work in much the same way. Here's an honest look so you can choose — or understand the one you already have.

How they compare

Brand	What it's known for
Ecobee	Known for a bright touchscreen, including a room sensor in the box, and a polished app. Often includes a part (the Power Extender Kit) that lets it work even without a C-wire (more on that soon). Works with Alexa, Google, Apple, and Matter.
Honeywell Home	Known for straightforward, reliable thermostats (the T-series), good value, and clear scheduling. Some models include a room sensor. The higher models want a C-wire. Works with Alexa and Google.

Both let you control heat and cooling from your phone, build schedules, use room sensors, and connect to voice assistants. For most homes, either is a fine choice, and the 'best' one is largely a matter of which you like the look of and the price on the day.

Model families, in plain terms

- **Ecobee** sells a simpler *Essential/Enhanced* line and a top *Premium* line with extras like air-quality monitoring. All run from the same ecobee app.
- **Honeywell Home** sells the *T-series* (such as the T9 and others) from basic to full-featured. All run from the same Honeywell Home app.

> **FROM BILL**
>
> **Don't overbuy — happy to help you choose**
>
> The fanciest thermostat isn't the best for everyone; the right one depends on your home, your wiring, and what you'll actually use. Before you spend, a quick call can save you money and make sure the one you pick will even work with your furnace. I'll give you my honest opinion with no sales pitch — **(330) 200-8042**.

What about Nest and the others?

You may have heard of Google's **Nest** thermostat, or seen Amazon, Wyze, and other brands on the shelf. They're fine devices, and nearly everything in this book — the C-wire, the safe install, schedules, saving energy — applies to them just the same. This book centers on Ecobee and Honeywell Home because they're the two I'm asked about most and they cover the great majority of homes, but don't feel you've bought the 'wrong' one if you have a Nest. The ideas carry over; only the app's exact buttons differ.

GOOD TO KNOW

The differences are smaller than the marketing suggests

Thermostat makers compete hard on features, but for most homes the day-to-day experience is much the same across brands: set a temperature, follow a schedule, save a bit of energy, control it from your phone. Pick based on price, looks, whether it includes a room sensor, and whether it works with any smart speaker you own — and don't lose sleep over the fancy extras you may never touch.

CHAPTER 4

The C-Wire: The One Thing That Decides Everything

If there's a single idea to understand before buying or installing a smart thermostat, it's the **C-wire**. It sounds technical, but the concept is simple, and it's the thing that most often turns an 'easy afternoon project' into 'call someone.' Let's make it clear.

What the C-wire is

Your old thermostat probably ran on a trickle of power borrowed from the heating wires, or on batteries — enough for a simple dial. A smart thermostat, with its bright screen and Wi-Fi, needs **steady, continuous power**. That steady power comes through a wire called the **common wire**, or **C-wire** for short. Think of it as the thermostat's power cord, hidden in the wall.

Do you have one?

This is the crucial question, and there's a simple way to check before you buy or begin:

1. Gently pull the face of your **current** thermostat off its wall plate (it usually unclips).
2. Look at the little screw terminals where the wires connect. Each is lettered — R, W, Y, G, and so on.
3. Look for a wire connected to the terminal marked **C**. If there's a wire in the C terminal, you likely have a C-wire — the easy case. If the C terminal is empty, you may not — the case that needs a little extra.
4. **Take a clear photo** of all the wires and terminals before you do anything else. This photo is pure gold — it tells you (and me, and any pro) exactly what you're working with.

> TIP
>
> **That photo is the most important step**
>
> Before you disconnect a single wire, photograph the existing thermostat's wiring — which colored wire goes to which lettered terminal. If anything ever goes sideways, that photo lets you put it back exactly as it was, and it lets me or an HVAC pro help you over the phone. Take it in good light and make sure the letters are readable. This one habit prevents most thermostat disasters.

No C-wire? You still have good options

An empty C terminal is not the end of the road — it's very common. You have a few paths:

- **Ecobee's Power Extender Kit (PEK)** — a small part included with many ecobees that an installer wires at the furnace to create the needed power without a true C-wire. Clever, but it involves working at the furnace.
- **A plug-in adapter or add-a-wire kit** — some Honeywell models and third-party kits solve it in different ways.
- **Having an HVAC pro run a C-wire** — the cleanest long-term fix, and usually not expensive.

HEADS UP

No C-wire is the #1 reason to consider a pro

If your C terminal is empty, the install goes from 'swap a few wires' to 'also do something at the furnace,' which is where many do-it-yourselfers get in over their heads. There's no shame in it — this is exactly the situation where a quick call to an HVAC pro (or to me, to figure out which path fits your home) saves you a headache and keeps your furnace safe.

CHAPTER 5

Is My System Compatible?

Most homes with ordinary forced-air furnaces and central air work beautifully with a smart thermostat. But a few systems need special care, so let's check yours before you buy.

Usually straightforward

- **A gas, oil, or electric furnace with central air conditioning** — the most common setup, and smart-thermostat friendly.
- **A heat pump** — widely supported, though the wiring has an extra wire or two; worth confirming the model handles heat pumps (most do).
- **A single thermostat controlling one zone** — the typical home.

Needs extra care or a pro

- **High-voltage (line-voltage) systems** — common with electric baseboard heat. Most smart thermostats are *low-voltage* and will NOT work with these. This is important — see the warning below.
- **Millivolt systems** — some older floor and wall heaters.
- **Proprietary or communicating systems** — certain high-end furnaces use their own special thermostats.
- **Multiple zones** with several thermostats and a zone control panel — doable, but more involved.

STAY SAFE

Line-voltage vs. low-voltage — know the difference

Most smart thermostats are made for **low-voltage** wiring (the thin wires, 24 volts) and are **not safe** on **line-voltage** systems (the thick wires carrying 120 or 240 volts, common with electric baseboard heaters). Installing a low-voltage thermostat on line-voltage wiring is dangerous. If your thermostat has thick wires, or your heat is electric baseboards, STOP and check compatibility carefully — this is a call-a-professional situation, not a weekend project.

The easy way to check

Both Ecobee and Honeywell Home offer a free **compatibility checker** on their websites: you enter the wires you see at your current thermostat (from that photo you took), and it tells you whether their thermostat will work and what you'll need. It takes a couple of minutes and

saves a lot of guesswork. If the result is unclear, that's a good moment to call.

CHAPTER 6

What You Need Before You Start

A smooth install is mostly about having the right things ready and a calm half-hour. Gather these before you begin, so you're never caught halfway with the heat off and a part missing.

Your checklist

- The **new thermostat**, with all its parts and the little bag of screws and wall anchors.
- A **smartphone** with the maker's free app installed (we'll do this in Part 3) and your **Wi-Fi password** handy.
- A **small screwdriver** (usually a Phillips, sometimes a tiny flathead for the wire terminals).
- A **pencil** and the **labels** that come with the thermostat, for marking wires.
- Your **phone's camera**, for that all-important photo of the existing wiring.
- A **step-stool** if the thermostat is high, and good lighting.

Pick a good time

Choose a mild day if you can, not the coldest night of winter — that way, if the install takes longer than planned or you need to pause and call for help, the house won't get uncomfortable with the heat off. Give yourself an unhurried hour. Rushing is how wires get crossed.

TIP

Read the included guide too

Your thermostat comes with its own quick-start guide, and it's genuinely helpful — it shows the exact wiring diagram for your model. Keep it next to this book. This book teaches you the ideas and the safe habits; the included guide fills in the specifics for your particular thermostat. Between the two, you'll have everything you need.

PART 2

Installing It Safely

The careful, step-by-step swap — turning off the power, labeling the wires, handling the C-wire, mounting the new unit, and knowing exactly when to hand the job to a professional.

CHAPTER 7

Safety First: Turning Off the Power

This is the most important chapter in the installation part of the book, so we'll take it slowly. Thermostat wires are low-voltage and relatively gentle, but your furnace runs on serious power, and the only safe way to work is to cut that power first. Never skip this step.

Turning off power at the breaker

1. Go to your **electrical panel** (breaker box) — usually in the basement, garage, or a utility closet.
2. Find the breaker (switch) labeled for your **furnace**, **air handler**, or **HVAC**. If none is clearly labeled, you can switch off the main breaker to be certain.
3. Flip that breaker to **OFF**.
4. **Confirm the power is really off:** go to the furnace and make sure it's dead (no fan, no hum), or check that the thermostat's screen has gone blank. Don't trust the label alone — confirm.

STAY SAFE

Confirm the power is off — every time

Labels on breaker boxes are wrong more often than you'd think. After you flip the breaker, actually confirm the furnace is dead and the old thermostat screen is blank before you touch a wire. This one habit is what keeps a simple job completely safe. If you can't be sure the power is off, stop and get help — there is no rush worth your safety.

Why it matters even for 'just a thermostat'

The thermostat wires themselves carry only about 24 volts — not enough to seriously hurt you — but a slip that lets two wires touch while the power is on can **blow a fuse in your furnace** or damage its control board, turning a free afternoon into an expensive repair. Cutting the power removes that risk entirely. It costs you nothing but a walk to the basement.

CHAPTER 8

Removing the Old Thermostat & Labeling the Wires

With the power confirmed off, we can take down the old thermostat. The golden rule here is simple: **label everything** as you go, so putting the new one on is a matter of matching letters.

Taking it apart

1. **Pull the face** of the old thermostat off its wall plate. Most pop off with a gentle tug or a small clip; some have a screw at the bottom.
2. You'll now see the **wall plate** with the wires attached to lettered terminals (R, Rc, Rh, W, Y, G, C, and so on).
3. **Photograph it clearly** again now, close up, with the letters readable. (Yes, even if you did earlier — now the wires are fully visible.)

Labeling the wires

1. Your new thermostat includes little **sticker labels** printed with those same letters (R, W, Y, G, C...).
2. For each wire, note which **letter terminal** it's screwed into, and wrap the matching **letter sticker** around that wire.
3. Loosen each terminal screw and gently free the wires. If a wire tries to slip back into the wall, **bend its end over a pencil** so it can't vanish into the hole — a classic, frustrating mishap.

HEADS UP

Don't let a wire fall into the wall

The single most common thermostat-install headache is a wire slipping back through the hole into the wall where you can't reach it. Before you free the wires, bunch them together and clip them to a pencil laid across the hole, or bend their ends into little hooks. Thirty seconds of prevention saves you fishing in the drywall — or calling someone to.

Go by the letter, not the color

It's tempting to rely on wire colors, but here's a trap: **wire colors are not standardized**. A red wire in one house does one job; in another, a different one. What's reliable is the **letter**

on the terminal each wire was connected to. That's why we label by letter. Trust the letters, and ignore what the colors 'should' mean.

CHAPTER 9

Handling the C-Wire Situation

Now that the wires are labeled and free, you'll fall into one of two camps from Chapter 4. Here's what each means for the next few minutes.

If you HAVE a C-wire

Lucky you — this is the easy path. Your labeled wires include a C. You'll simply connect each labeled wire to the matching letter on the new thermostat's plate (next chapter), and the C-wire gives it the steady power it needs. Carry on with confidence.

If you do NOT have a C-wire

Don't panic — just follow your thermostat's chosen solution carefully:

- **Ecobee with the Power Extender Kit (PEK):** the kit is installed at your **furnace's control board**, not at the wall. This means opening the furnace and matching wires to a small included board, following ecobee's diagram exactly. It's doable for a careful person comfortable around the furnace — but it's the point where many choose to call a pro.
- **Honeywell with an adapter or batteries:** some models run on batteries or include a wiring adapter. Follow the included instructions for your exact model.
- **Running a true C-wire:** an HVAC pro can run a proper common wire from the furnace to the thermostat, the cleanest fix of all.

STAY SAFE

The furnace is the line I'd draw

Here's my honest rule of thumb: swapping wires at the *wall* is a reasonable do-it-yourself job for a careful person. Opening the *furnace* to install a Power Extender Kit or chase a C-wire is where I'd encourage most folks to call an HVAC professional. It's not that you couldn't — it's that a mistake at the furnace is costlier and the work is fiddlier. Know your comfort level, and there's no shame in handing off this part.

CHAPTER 10

Mounting & Wiring the New Thermostat

With power off, wires labeled, and the C-wire question settled, mounting the new thermostat is satisfying work. Take it one wire at a time and match the letters.

Mounting the plate

1. Thread the wires through the hole in the new **wall plate**.
2. Hold it level (most have a little bubble level or you can eyeball it) and mark the screw holes with your pencil.
3. If the old screw holes don't line up, use the included **wall anchors**: push them into drilled holes so the screws bite firmly. (A fresh thermostat often covers old holes anyway.)
4. Screw the plate to the wall, snug and level.

Connecting the wires

1. One at a time, match each **lettered wire** to the **same letter** on the new plate.
2. Press or screw each wire firmly into its terminal until it's held fast — a loose wire causes flaky behavior later.
3. Double-check every connection against your photo. Letters matching letters, all the way across.
4. Tuck the extra wire gently back into the wall and snap the thermostat's face onto the plate.

TIP

Match your photo before you power up

Before you turn the power back on, lay your phone beside the new thermostat and compare, wire by wire, that each letter matches what the photo showed — plus the C-wire if your setup added one. Two quiet minutes of checking here prevents the large majority of 'it won't turn on' and 'the heat won't run' problems. Measure twice, power once.

CHAPTER 11

First Power-On & Connecting to Wi-Fi

Here's the rewarding moment. With the wiring done and double-checked, we bring the power back and wake the thermostat up.

Powering back on

1. Return to the breaker box and flip the furnace/HVAC breaker back **ON**.
2. The thermostat's screen should light up and begin its first-time setup. If it stays dark, go back to the safety steps, cut power again, and recheck your wiring (often the C-wire or a loose connection).
3. Follow the on-screen setup: it asks about your system (heating type, cooling, fan) — answer from what you know, or let it detect automatically where it can.

Connecting to your Wi-Fi

The step that makes it 'smart' is joining your home Wi-Fi. The thermostat will either walk you through it on its own screen, or — more commonly — hand off to the phone app:

1. On the thermostat (or in the app), choose **Wi-Fi setup**.
2. Pick your home network from the list and type your Wi-Fi password carefully.
3. Wait a moment for it to connect. A Wi-Fi symbol or 'connected' message confirms success.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

The moment it all comes together

When the screen lights up, the heat or air kicks on at your command, and your phone shows the temperature from across the room — that's the payoff. From here on, your home's comfort is in your pocket. Take a second to enjoy it; you did that.

Test it before you walk away

Don't call it done until you've tested both jobs: nudge the temperature up until the **heat** kicks on (you'll hear the furnace), then down until it stops; and if it's cooling season, the same for the **air conditioning**. Confirming both run — and stop — means the wiring is right and you can relax.

CHAPTER 12

When to Call an HVAC Pro or Electrician

I promised to be honest about this, so here it is plainly. Many people install a smart thermostat themselves with no trouble. But some situations genuinely call for a professional — and knowing which is which is wisdom, not weakness.

Please call a professional if…

- Your heat is **electric baseboard** or you see **thick, line-voltage wires** — this is a safety matter, not a preference (Chapter 5).
- You have **no C-wire** and the fix means working inside the **furnace**, and you're not fully comfortable there.
- Your system is a **heat pump** with auxiliary/emergency heat, has **multiple zones**, or uses a **proprietary/communicating** thermostat.
- You turn the power back on and something smells hot, trips a breaker, or doesn't work — stop and call.
- At any point you feel out of your depth. That feeling is good judgment talking.

Who to call for what

Call…	For…
HVAC technician	Furnace/AC wiring, C-wire runs, heat pumps, zoning, anything at the furnace or that affects how your system runs.
Electrician	Line-voltage (baseboard) situations, or any concern about household wiring and breakers.
Bill's Home Tech	The Wi-Fi, the app, the schedules, the voice assistants — and figuring out *which* pro you need and what to tell them.

FROM BILL

I'll help you figure out the right call

Even when a job needs an HVAC pro or electrician, you don't have to sort that out alone. Call me at **(330) 200-8042**, tell me what you're seeing (that wiring photo helps enormously), and I'll tell you honestly whether it's a do-it-together job or a call-the-pro job — and exactly what to tell them so you're not oversold. With 30+ years of professional experience, pointing folks to the right fix is a big part of what I do.

PART 3

The App & Everyday Use

Installing the app, a tour of the ecobee and Honeywell Home screens, setting the temperature, the heat/cool/auto modes, and the fan — the everyday controls you'll actually use.

CHAPTER 13

Installing the App & Creating an Account

Your thermostat's screen does plenty on its own, but the free phone app is where the magic lives — it's how you control the heat from bed, from the car, or from a thousand miles away. Let's get it installed.

Getting the right app

Your brand	Install
Ecobee thermostats	the **ecobee** app
Honeywell Home thermostats	the **Honeywell Home** app (by Resideo)

1. Open the **App Store** (iPhone/iPad) or **Play Store** (Android).
2. Search the app name above and look for the one by the real maker (ecobee, or Resideo/Honeywell Home).
3. Tap **Get** or **Install**, then open it.
4. Create a free account with your email and a password, confirm the code it emails you, and sign in. If setup didn't already connect your thermostat, the app will walk you through adding it now.

SCAM ALERT

Only the real app, only the real maker

The app stores are full of look-alike 'thermostat' and 'remote control' apps. Install only the genuine **ecobee** or **Honeywell Home** app from the actual company. And never install something a pop-up or caller tells you to in order to 'fix' your thermostat — real help never works that way. When unsure, call me.

STAY SAFE

Protect the account with two-step verification

Your account controls your home's heat and sees whether you're home or away, so keep it locked down: use a strong, unique password and turn on **two-step verification** if offered (a quick code to your phone after your password). It's the best way to be sure no one else can reach your thermostat.

CHAPTER 14

A Tour of the App

Both apps share the same handful of screens. Once you know these, nothing in there is a mystery. Let's walk through the corners you'll actually use.

The main screens

Screen	What it's for
Home / main dial	The big temperature display: the current temperature and the one you've set it to (the 'setpoint'). Where you adjust the heat or air with a tap or slide.
Mode	Switches between Heat, Cool, Auto, and Off (Chapter 16).
Schedule	Where you set what temperature you want at what times (Chapter 17).
Sensors	If you have room sensors, where you see each room's temperature (Chapter 19).
Settings	Account, Wi-Fi, preferences, and the deeper options.

The everyday move: change the temperature

The thing you'll do most is simply make the house warmer or cooler. On the app's main screen, **drag the dial** or tap the up/down arrows to the temperature you want. The thermostat gets to work, and you'll see it counting toward your target. That's the whole everyday act — adjust and done.

TIP

You can't hurt anything by exploring

Tap around the app freely — open the menus, peek at Settings, look at the schedule. Nothing changes until you deliberately save a setting or move the temperature. The app is a safe place to poke around, and poking around is exactly how you get comfortable with it. Go ahead.

The thermostat on the wall still works too

It's worth saying plainly: you never *have* to use the app. Everything you can do in the app, you can also do by walking up to the thermostat and tapping its screen — change the temperature, switch modes, set a schedule. The app is a convenience, letting you do it from your chair or from away, but the wall unit is always there as a simple, familiar backup. If the app ever confuses you, just use the wall; nothing is lost.

GOOD TO KNOW

If the Wi-Fi is down, your heat still works

Here's a reassurance that matters: the 'smart' part — the app and remote control — rides on your Wi-Fi, but the *heating and cooling* do not. If your internet goes out, your thermostat keeps your home comfortable exactly as always, following its schedule and the wall controls. You just can't reach it from your phone until the Wi-Fi returns. Your comfort never depends on the internet.

CHAPTER 15

Setting the Temperature & Reading the Screen

Let's slow down on the most basic skill of all — setting and reading the temperature — because a few terms trip people up, and once they're clear, everything else is easy.

Current vs. set temperature

Your thermostat always shows two numbers, and telling them apart is the key to reading it:

- **The current temperature** — how warm or cool the room actually is right now.
- **The set temperature (setpoint)** — the temperature you've *asked* for. The thermostat runs the heat or air until the current temperature reaches this.

So if the room is 66 and you set it to 70, the heat runs until the room climbs to 70, then shuts off. Simple as that. When the two numbers match, your system rests.

On the wall or on the phone — same result

You can change the temperature on the thermostat itself *or* in the app, whichever is handier, and they stay in step — set it on your phone and the wall unit updates, and the other way around. Use whichever you're nearest.

GOOD TO KNOW

What 'Hold' means

If you set a temperature that's different from your schedule, the thermostat calls it a **Hold** — it 'holds' your manual choice instead of following the schedule. You can hold it for a couple of hours, until the next scheduled change, or until you cancel. A little 'Hold' label on the screen is just telling you 'I'm following your hand right now, not the schedule.' Tap to cancel it and the schedule takes back over.

CHAPTER 16

Heat, Cool, Auto & the Fan

A thermostat has a few **modes** that decide what it's allowed to do. Picking the right one for the season keeps your home comfortable and your bills sensible.

The modes

Mode	What it does
Heat	Runs the furnace only, to keep you at or above your set temperature. Your winter setting.
Cool	Runs the air conditioning only, to keep you at or below your set temperature. Your summer setting.
Auto	Lets the thermostat choose heat or cool to stay within a comfortable range you set — handy in spring and fall when days swing warm and nights turn cold.
Off	Neither heats nor cools (the fan may still run if you ask). For mild stretches when you want no system running.

The fan setting

Separately, your **fan** has its own setting:

- **Auto** — the fan runs only when the system is actively heating or cooling. The usual, efficient choice.
- **On** — the fan runs all the time, circulating air even when not heating or cooling. Some like this for even temperatures or filtering; it uses a bit more electricity.
- **Circulate** (on some models) — a middle ground that runs the fan now and then to keep air moving without running constantly.

TIP

Auto for both is the easy default

If you're ever unsure, setting the **mode** to match the season (Heat in winter, Cool in summer, or Auto in between) and the **fan** to **Auto** is a sensible, efficient default that suits most homes. You can always experiment later; start here and you won't go wrong.

PART 4

Schedules, Comfort & Saving Money

The features that earn a smart thermostat its keep: schedules, home-and-away, room sensors, and the energy-saving tricks that quietly lower your bills.

CHAPTER 17

Building a Schedule

The schedule is the heart of a smart thermostat — it lets your home adjust itself around your day, so you're comfortable when you're up and about, and not paying to heat or cool an empty or sleeping house. A good schedule is where most of the savings come from.

Thinking about your day

Before you tap anything, picture a typical day in four simple stretches — the apps usually use names like these:

Period	The idea
Wake / Morning	When you get up — warm (or cool) the house to comfortable just before.
Away / Day	When the house is empty or you're busy — ease off a few degrees to save.
Home / Evening	When you're back and settled — comfortable again.
Sleep / Night	Overnight — usually a touch cooler for sleeping and saving.

Setting it up

1. In the app, open **Schedule**.
2. For each period, set the **time** it starts and the **temperature** you want then.
3. Set it for weekdays, then adjust weekends if your routine differs (many like to sleep in or stay home more on weekends).
4. Save. From now on, the house adjusts itself — no more remembering to turn it down at night or up in the morning.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Set it once, save all year

A thoughtful schedule is the closest thing to free money a thermostat offers: it trims your heating and cooling during the hours it doesn't matter, every single day, without you lifting a finger. Over a season those small, automatic setbacks add up to a real dent in your bill — and you never feel the difference, because it's comfortable exactly when you are.

A sample schedule to start from

If a blank schedule feels daunting, here's a sensible winter example you can adjust to taste. In summer, flip the logic — cooler targets when home, a few degrees warmer when away or

asleep:

Time & period	A reasonable winter setting
6:00 a.m. — Wake	68° (warm for getting up and about)
8:00 a.m. — Away	62° (if the house empties; skip if you're home all day)
5:00 p.m. — Home	68° (comfortable for the evening)
10:00 p.m. — Sleep	63° (cooler for sleeping, and for saving)

These are just a starting point — your comfortable numbers may differ, and that's fine. The pattern is what matters: comfortable when you're up, eased back when you're out or asleep. Set something close to this, live with it a week, and nudge it until it feels right.

Don't like fiddling with schedules?

That's fine — you have gentler options. You can let the thermostat **learn** your habits over a week or two and build a schedule for you (on models that offer it), or skip the schedule and just use **home/away** (next chapter) so it eases off whenever you leave. There's no wrong way — pick the amount of hands-on that suits you.

CHAPTER 18

Home, Away & Automatic Adjusting

One of the smartest tricks a smart thermostat has is knowing whether anyone's home — and easing off the heat and air when the house is empty. It does this in two clever ways.

Geofencing — using your phone's location

Geofencing uses your phone's location to notice when you leave and come home. When your phone leaves a circle around your house, the thermostat switches to an energy-saving **Away** setting; when you return, it warms or cools back to **Home** comfort — ideally before you're through the door. No schedule to guess at; it simply follows your real comings and goings.

1. In the app's settings, turn on **Geofencing** or **Smart Home/Away**.
2. Allow the app to use your location (it uses it only to tell whether you're home).
3. Set your **Home** and **Away** temperatures.
4. If more than one person lives there, add each person's phone, so it only goes 'Away' when everyone's out.

Motion sensing — using the thermostat's own eyes

Ecobee and some Honeywell thermostats have **motion sensors** built into the thermostat and its room sensors. If they notice no one's moved around for a while, they can conclude the house is empty and ease off — a nice backup to geofencing, and helpful for folks who don't always carry a phone.

GOOD TO KNOW

Away settings should be gentle, not extreme

When setting your 'Away' temperature, don't go wild — in winter, letting the house drop to, say, the low 60s saves money without risking frozen pipes or a long, costly reheat. Swinging it twenty degrees actually wastes energy clawing it back, and in deep cold it's risky. A modest setback is the sweet spot: real savings, no drama.

CHAPTER 19

Room Sensors: Comfort in the Rooms That Matter

Here's a problem every home has: the thermostat is in one spot — usually a hallway — but you *live* in the bedroom, the den, the kitchen. If the hallway is comfortable but the bedroom is freezing, the thermostat doesn't know. **Room sensors** fix exactly this.

What a room sensor does

A room sensor is a small, battery-powered gadget you set in another room — on a nightstand, a shelf, a desk. It reports that room's temperature (and often whether anyone's there) back to the thermostat. Now the thermostat can keep the *rooms you're actually using* comfortable, not just the hallway it happens to live in.

Setting one up

1. Pull the battery tab (or install the battery) to wake the sensor.
2. In the app, go to **Sensors** and tap **Add Sensor**; it finds the new one.
3. Name it for its room — 'Bedroom,' 'Living Room.'
4. Choose how the thermostat should use it: follow the occupied rooms, average them together, or favor a particular room (like the bedroom at night).

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Comfort where you actually are

Room sensors quietly solve the age-old 'the thermostat says 70 but I'm cold' complaint. By letting your thermostat care about the rooms you live in — the bedroom overnight, the den in the evening — they make the whole house feel right, not just the spot on the wall. For homes with a chilly bedroom or a hot upstairs, they're the single best upgrade.

How many sensors, and where

You don't need a sensor in every room — just in the ones whose comfort you care about most. For most homes that's the **main bedroom** (so nights are right) and a **main living area** (so evenings are right). A sensor in a rarely-used guest room earns its keep far less. Start with one or two in the rooms you live in, and add more only if a particular room still feels off.

Keeping sensors happy

Sensors run on small coin batteries that last a long time; the app warns you when one gets low. Place them out of direct sun and away from heat vents and drafts, which would give a false reading — a sensor baking in a sunbeam will tell your thermostat the house is warm when it isn't. Set them on an interior shelf or nightstand at about seated height, and otherwise they look after themselves for months at a time.

CHAPTER 20

Saving Energy & Reading Your Usage

The whole promise of a smart thermostat is comfort *and* savings. You've met the big money-savers already — schedules and home/away. Here are the rest of the levers, and how to see the difference they make.

The energy-saving habits that work

- **A sensible setback** while away and asleep — the single biggest saver (Chapters 17-18).
- **Eco or energy-saving modes** — ecobee's 'eco+' and similar features nudge your settings for efficiency and can shift cooling to cheaper times of day; turn them on and let them work.
- **A wider Auto range** in spring and fall, so the system rests more between heating and cooling.
- **Fan on Auto** rather than constantly On, unless you have a reason.
- **Reasonable targets** — each degree closer to the outdoor temperature saves; even one or two degrees adds up over a season.

Seeing where your energy goes

Both apps show you **energy reports** — how many hours your system ran, how you compare to past months or to similar homes, and tips to do better. It's genuinely useful: you can see a cold snap in the numbers, or notice the savings after you tightened your schedule. Some utilities even offer **rebates** or small bill credits for using these features — worth asking your power company about.

FROM BILL

I'll help you set it up to actually save

A smart thermostat only saves if its schedule and settings fit your real life — a badly set one can even cost more. If you'd like, we can go through your schedule, your away settings, and the energy-saving features together and tune them for your home and habits. That's often where the real savings hide. Call me at **(330) 200-8042**.

PART 5

Voice, Smart Home & Being Away

Controlling your thermostat with your voice, tying it into Alexa or Google, and leaning on it most when you're away from home.

CHAPTER 21

Voice Control with Alexa, Google & Siri

If you have a smart speaker — an Amazon Echo (Alexa) or a Google Nest speaker — you can change your thermostat just by asking out loud. For many folks this becomes the favorite way to use it: no phone, no getting up, just a word from your chair.

Connecting your thermostat to a voice assistant

It's a one-time setup that links your thermostat account to your Alexa or Google account:

1. Open the **Alexa** app (or the **Google Home** app) on your phone.
2. Add a device or skill, and search for **ecobee** or **Honeywell Home**.
3. Sign in with your thermostat account to link them, and let it find your thermostat.
4. That's it — now your speaker can control it.

The handy things to say

To…	Say…
Set a temperature	"Alexa, set the thermostat to 70."
Make it warmer/cooler	"Hey Google, make it two degrees warmer."
Ask the temperature	"Alexa, what's the temperature in here?"
Change mode	"Hey Google, set the thermostat to heat."

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

The easiest control of all

For anyone whose hands or knees make getting up to the hallway a chore, voice control is a small marvel: 'turn it up two degrees' from your chair, and it's done. It's also wonderful in the night — adjust the heat without fumbling for a phone or padding down a cold hallway. Comfort for the price of a few words.

A note on Apple's Siri

If you use an iPhone and an Ecobee thermostat, you can also ask **Siri** — 'Hey Siri, set the thermostat to 70' — because Ecobee works with Apple's Home system. Honeywell Home leans more toward Alexa and Google. Whichever assistant you already use, the idea is the same: link it once in the app, then speak naturally. Pick the one tied to the speaker or phone you already own, rather than buying anything new.

GOOD TO KNOW

Give your thermostat a clear name

When you link a voice assistant, you can name your thermostat something simple like 'thermostat' or 'downstairs.' Pick a name that's easy to say and hard to confuse with other devices, so when you ask to 'set the thermostat to 70,' the right one listens. If you only have one, plain 'thermostat' is perfect.

CHAPTER 22

Working with Your Smart Home

Beyond voice, your thermostat can be part of a larger smart-home picture if you have one — though you're never required to, and it works perfectly well on its own.

The systems it works with

System	What it offers
Amazon Alexa	Voice control and routines; both brands supported.
Google Home	Voice control and automations; both brands supported.
Apple Home (HomeKit)	Control from an iPhone's Home app and Siri — supported by Ecobee.
Samsung SmartThings	Ties the thermostat into a SmartThings home.
Matter	A newer common standard that helps smart-home gadgets of different brands work together; supported by newer Ecobee models.

Simple automations worth knowing about

With Alexa or Google you can set gentle **routines** — for example, 'Good night' could lower the thermostat, turn off certain lights, and lock up, all from one phrase. You don't need any of this to enjoy your thermostat, but if you have a few smart devices, tying them together can be a pleasant convenience.

Starting small, if you're curious

If the smart-home idea intrigues you but you're wary of a big project, your thermostat is a lovely, low-risk place to dip a toe. Link it to a smart speaker you already own and try changing the temperature by voice for a few weeks. If you enjoy it, you might later add a smart plug for a lamp, or a video doorbell. If you don't, you've lost nothing — the thermostat carries on beautifully by itself. There's no need to build a 'system'; add only what earns its place in your daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

You don't need a 'smart home' to use a smart thermostat

Don't let the smart-home talk overwhelm you. A smart thermostat is completely happy as an island — controlled by its own screen and app, with no speakers or other gadgets at all. The voice and smart-home features are there if you want them, not hoops you must jump through. Use exactly as much as suits you, and ignore the rest.

CHAPTER 23

Leaning on It While You're Away

A smart thermostat is never more valuable than when you're away from home — on a trip, at the hospital, or wintering somewhere warm. A few habits turn it into real peace of mind.

Before and during a trip

- **Set a vacation or away setting** — a gentle setback that saves energy without letting the house get dangerously cold (pipes!) or hot.
- **Check it from anywhere** — open the app from the beach or the waiting room and see, or change, your home's temperature in seconds.
- **Watch for freeze alerts** — both brands can warn you if the house drops toward freezing, so you can act before pipes are at risk.
- **Warm it before you return** — a tap on the app on your way home means walking into a comfortable house, not a cold one.

STAY SAFE

For snowbirds: the freeze warning is your friend

If you leave an Ohio home empty for the winter, set your thermostat to a safe minimum (many keep it around the mid-50s to protect pipes) and turn on **low-temperature or freeze alerts**. That way, if the furnace fails or the power blips while you're in Florida, your phone tells you in time to call a neighbor — before a frozen pipe becomes a flooded house. It's one of the most valuable things a smart thermostat does.

Let a neighbor or family member help

Both apps let you **share access** with a trusted family member, so a son or daughter can check or adjust your thermostat too — a comfort if you'd rather not fuss with it, or if you want a second set of eyes on the house while you travel. It's set up in the app's account or sharing settings, and it's far safer than handing out your password.

PART 6

Care, Troubleshooting & When to Call Bill

Keeping it running sweetly, fixing the handful of problems that come up, an honest safety recap, and knowing when a call will save you an afternoon — or a furnace.

CHAPTER 24

Keeping Your Thermostat Healthy

A smart thermostat asks very little of you once it's installed. A few easy habits keep it accurate and reliable for years.

- **Change your furnace filter** regularly — this isn't the thermostat, but a clogged filter makes your system struggle and your thermostat work it harder. The apps can even remind you.
- **Let the thermostat and app update** when offered — these fix bugs and add features.
- **Replace room-sensor batteries** when the app warns you (usually rarely).
- **Keep the thermostat clear** — don't block it with furniture or a lamp whose heat would fool its temperature reading.
- **Glance at the energy reports** now and then to catch anything odd, like the system running far more than usual (a sign of a problem worth investigating).

> TIP
>
> **A sudden jump in run-time is worth a look**
>
> If your energy report or your bill shows the system suddenly running far more than it used to, don't just blame the thermostat — it may be telling you something: a dirty filter, a struggling furnace or AC, or a door left ajar somewhere. The thermostat is a helpful early-warning system if you glance at it. When in doubt, it's worth a call to an HVAC pro — or to me to help sort out what's going on.

Let it remind you about the filter

A dirty furnace filter is the most common cause of a system that struggles, costs more, and even wears out early — and it's one of the easiest things in the world to fix. Both apps can send you a **filter-change reminder** on a schedule you choose (often every few months). Turn it on, and you'll never again forget this small chore that does so much for your comfort, your bills, and your furnace's long life. When the reminder comes, a fresh filter is a two-minute swap.

CHAPTER 25

Common Problems & Quick Fixes

Most thermostat troubles are minor and quick to settle. Here's a reference for what you're most likely to meet. One theme runs through it: if the heat or cooling won't run at all after an install, suspect the wiring or the C-wire first.

What you see	What to try
Screen is blank / dead	Usually a power issue — a tripped breaker, a blown furnace fuse, or a missing C-wire. Check the breaker and your wiring (Chapters 7-11).
Heat or AC won't turn on	Check the mode (Heat/Cool) and setpoint; then suspect a wiring mismatch from the install (Chapter 10). Compare to your photo.
Won't connect to Wi-Fi	Move setup closer to the router; recheck the password; restart your router; try again (Chapter 11).
Wrong temperature reading	Make sure it's not in sun or near a vent, lamp, or draft that fools it; a room sensor can help (Chapter 19).
Short-cycling (turns on/off fast)	Could be a setting or an HVAC issue; if it persists, call an HVAC pro.
'Hold' won't go away	You set a manual temperature; tap to cancel the Hold and resume the schedule (Chapter 15).
App says thermostat offline	Your Wi-Fi or the thermostat lost connection; restart the router, check the thermostat's Wi-Fi (Chapter 26).

HEADS UP

If it won't heat or cool after an install, don't force it

A thermostat that powers on but won't actually run the heat or AC almost always means a wire is on the wrong terminal or loose. Don't keep jabbing at it. Cut the power at the breaker, compare every wire to your photo, and fix the mismatch — or call for help. Running a miswired system can stress your furnace, so it's worth getting right rather than 'making do.'

CHAPTER 26

Wi-Fi & 'Offline' Troubles

The 'smart' part of your thermostat leans on your home Wi-Fi, so now and then it may show as **offline** in the app — the thermostat still runs your heat and air just fine, but you can't reach it remotely until it reconnects. The fixes are the familiar ones.

The checklist

1. **Is your internet up?** If the Wi-Fi is down, the thermostat (and everything else) goes offline. Check that other things can get online.
2. **Restart your router** — unplug it for 30 seconds, plug it back in, wait two minutes. This fixes many offline thermostats.
3. **Check the thermostat's Wi-Fi** — in its on-screen settings, confirm it's still connected to your network; reconnect if needed.
4. **Consider the signal** — a thermostat far from the router, behind walls, may have a weak signal. If it drops off often, better Wi-Fi coverage there is the real fix.

TIP

Offline doesn't mean broken

An 'offline' thermostat is almost never a fault in the thermostat — it just briefly lost touch with your Wi-Fi, and your heat and air keep working the whole time. Restart the router, confirm the thermostat's network, and it usually pops right back. If one keeps dropping, a Wi-Fi booster near it ends the trouble — a common, easy fix I'm glad to help with.

CHAPTER 27

An Honest Safety Recap

Because wiring and heating equipment are involved, let's gather the safety points in one place. Keep this chapter in mind, and you'll never put yourself or your home at risk.

The rules that matter most

- **Always cut the power at the breaker** before touching thermostat wires, and *confirm* it's off (Chapter 7).
- **Photograph the wiring** before you change anything, and label wires by their **letter**, not color (Chapters 4, 8).
- **Line-voltage and electric baseboard heat** are not for standard smart thermostats — this is a safety matter; call a pro (Chapter 5).
- **Work inside the furnace** (for a C-wire or Power Extender Kit) is where most folks should call an HVAC professional (Chapter 9).
- **If anything smells hot, trips a breaker, or won't work right** after you power up — stop and call for help (Chapter 25).

STAY SAFE

When in doubt, stop

The best safety tool you have is permission to stop. If at any point you feel unsure, or something doesn't look or smell right, turn the power off and set it down. A paused project is nothing; a damaged furnace or a safety scare is a real problem. Calling a professional — or calling me to figure out which professional — is always the right move when your gut says so.

FROM BILL

There's no shame in handing off the hard part

I've helped plenty of capable folks who did the easy wall-swap themselves and wisely called a pro for the furnace work — that's not failure, that's good judgment. You can do a great deal yourself and still know where your line is. Wherever yours falls, I'm glad to help you figure it out at **(330) 200-8042**.

CHAPTER 28

When to Call Bill

This book is meant to make you confident with your smart thermostat — and for the comfort, app, Wi-Fi, and savings side of things, it will. But you should never wrestle alone with something frustrating or unsafe. Here's when a call makes good sense.

Good reasons to call

- You'd like a hand **choosing** a thermostat that fits your home and wiring before you buy.
- You're partway through an install and hit the **C-wire** question, or the heat won't run, and want to talk it through.
- The thermostat won't **connect to Wi-Fi**, or keeps going offline.
- You want help building a **schedule** and tuning the energy-saving settings so you actually save money.
- You want to set up **voice control**, **room sensors**, **freeze alerts for a winter away**, or **sharing access** with family.
- Anything feels **unsafe** or beyond your comfort — I'll help, or point you to the right HVAC pro or electrician and tell you what to ask for.

SCAM ALERT

Real help never cold-calls about your thermostat

No legitimate company will call you out of the blue about your thermostat, your furnace, or your 'energy account,' demand payment or gift cards, or ask to remote into your computer to 'fix' it. Those are scams that target homeowners, especially seniors. Hang up or close the window and call me at **(330) 200-8042** if you want to be sure. I'd far rather take that call than help clean up after a scam.

How to reach me

I'm Bill, and I help folks right here in **Portage County, Ohio** with exactly this kind of thing. Call or text **(330) 200-8042**, or book a visit online at **billshometech.com/book**. If you reach my assistant **Sophie** on the main line, she can answer simple questions and get you on my schedule. With 30+ years of professional experience, there's little about home technology I haven't seen — and when a job needs an HVAC pro, I'll tell you honestly and help you find a good one.

— Bill

CHAPTER 29

Questions People Ask Me About Thermostats

The same good questions come up again and again. Here are my plain answers to the ones I hear most — your question may well be among them.

Will a smart thermostat really lower my bills?

For most homes, yes — modestly but genuinely, mainly through sensible setbacks while you're away and asleep. The savings depend on your habits and your home; a thoughtful schedule is what makes the difference. It won't work miracles, but over a heating and cooling season it usually pays its way, and often earns back its cost within a few years.

Can I install it myself?

Many people can, if they have a C-wire and an ordinary low-voltage system — it's a careful half-hour of matching lettered wires (Part 2). The jobs to hand to a pro are line-voltage or baseboard heat, no C-wire where the fix is inside the furnace, or anything that feels beyond your comfort. There's no shame in doing the easy part and calling for the rest.

What happens in a power outage?

When the power comes back, your thermostat simply starts up again and resumes its schedule — your settings aren't lost. During the outage, with no power, your furnace and AC aren't running anyway. You may need to reconnect to Wi-Fi briefly if your router was off too, but your comfort settings stay put.

Do I have to use the app and Wi-Fi?

No. You can run the thermostat entirely from the wall unit, like a traditional one, and it keeps your home comfortable with no internet at all. The app and Wi-Fi add remote control and extra features, but they're optional conveniences, not requirements.

Is it safe from being 'hacked'?

With a strong, unique password and two-step verification turned on, your thermostat account is very well protected. The real risk isn't clever hackers — it's scammers who phone or email pretending to be 'support.' Guard your password, ignore anyone who contacts you first, and you're on solid ground (Chapter 28).

My house has a cold room no matter what. Can this help?

Often, yes — a room sensor (Chapter 19) lets the thermostat care about that room's temperature, not just the hallway's. It can't fix a duct problem or poor insulation, but for a room that's simply far from the thermostat, it's frequently the answer. If a room stays stubbornly off even then, that's worth an HVAC pro's look.

FROM BILL

Still wondering about something? Ask

If your question isn't here, that's exactly what I'm for. There's no such thing as a silly question about your home's comfort, and I've answered just about all of them over 30+ years. Call or text me at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll sort it out together.

CHAPTER 30

Your Smart Thermostat Cheat-Sheet

Fold the corner of this page and keep it handy. It's the whole book boiled down to the things you'll reach for most.

Before you install — the must-dos

1. **Photograph** the old wiring (letters readable).
2. Check for a **C-wire** and whether your system is low-voltage (Chapters 4-5).
3. **Turn off the power** at the breaker and confirm it's off (Chapter 7).
4. Label wires by **letter**, not color. When unsure at the furnace — call a pro.

Everyday moves

I want to…	Do this
Change the temperature	Drag the dial or tap up/down — on the wall or in the app.
Switch heating/cooling	Tap Mode → Heat, Cool, Auto, or Off.
Follow your routine	Set a Schedule, or turn on Home/Away geofencing.
Comfort in the bedroom	Add a room sensor and favor it at night.
Control by voice	Link to Alexa or Google; 'set the thermostat to 70.'
Protect an empty house	Set a safe minimum and turn on freeze alerts.
Thermostat offline	Restart the router; check the thermostat's Wi-Fi.
Heat/AC won't run after install	Power off; recheck every wire against your photo.

Write these down and keep them here

Keep handy	Fill in
My thermostat brand & model	_____
Do I have a C-wire?	_____
My Wi-Fi network name	_____
My HVAC company	_____
Bill's Home Tech	(330) 200-8042 · billshometech.com/book

FROM BILL

You've got this

A smart thermostat rewards a little care up front with years of comfort and savings. Be safe with the wiring, lean on a pro for the hard parts without a second thought, and enjoy running your home's comfort from your chair. I'm one phone call away for all of it. — Bill, (330) 200-8042